there no definite indications of oil and gas in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh even after drilling of 26 wells, its necessitated curtailment of exploratory drilling activities at ONGC's Northern Regional Business Centre, Jammu. Exploratory drilling in these areas is suspended but seismic surveys are continued to evaluate any need of further exploration activities in these States.

LPG Connections in Kumaon Region in Uttar Pradesh

1751. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of LPG connections with each agency in Almora, Ranikhet, Haldwani and Nainital of Uttar Pradesh and the number of persons on the waiting list as on the 30th September, 1993;

(b) by when wait listed persons are likely to be provided the LPG connections in those towns; and

(c) what are the other places in hill districts of Kumaon region in Uttar Pradesh where LPG facilities are available at present and by when the remaining districts are likely to be provided with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a)

Name of distributor	No. of Customers as on 30-9-93	Waiting list as on 30-9-93
Chowdhari Gas Agency, Haldwani	6132	6231
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Haldwani	12766	—
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Almora	7555	2002
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Ranikhet.	5396	1944
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Nainital.	12236	540

(b) Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible, subject to product availability.

(c) All the Districts of Kumaon region are covered by LPG facilities with 16 markets and 105 extension points. New LPG distributorships are opened subject to availability of the product in a phased manner, based on feasibility and economic viability.

Opening of LPG agency at Basot in Almora (U.P.)

1752. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no LPG agency at Basot which is the last motorable point in Ranikhet-Bhatraujjkhan-Basot Road in District Almora, U.P.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Ranikhet Gas Service supplies LPG cylinder at Bhatraujjkhan twice a month to all the consumers residing at places spread over 15 Kms. from Bhatraujjkhan to Basot;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to direct M/s. Ranikhet Gas Service to supply LPG Cylinders on all the main points along the Bhatraujjkhan-Basot Road; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Ranikhet Gas Service are meeting the requirements of LPG Customers at Bhatraujjkhan as an extension point.

(c) and (d) Introduction of LPG facility at Basot and nearby villages will be considered by the Indian Oil Corporation as and when a request is received from the State Government in this regard, subject to product availability and enrolment plan.